

Sunday, March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for the Morning

Awake, arise, sing praise!

Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn

Meter: 664 66 64

God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!
Savior, you came to give
Those who in darkness live
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inward blind:
Now to all humankind
Let there be light!

Psalm

36:6-13

*Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and
Christ will give you light. (cf. Eph 5:14)*

*At every hour are we called to awake from the
darkness of spiritual sleep into the glorious light of
Jesus Christ. We put our trust in the promise of that
eternal day when all shall awaken, with the man born
blind, in the kingdom of light, where they shall drink
from the stream of delight and see all things by the
one true light.*

Your love, Lord, reaches to heaven; your truth to
the skies. Your justice is like God's mountain, your
judgments like the deep. To both man and beast
you give protection. O Lord, how precious is your
love. My God, the sons of men find refuge in the
shelter of your wings.

They feast on the riches of your house; they drink
from the stream of your delight. In you is the
source of life and in your light we see light. Keep
on loving those who know you, doing justice for
upright hearts. Let the foot of the proud not crush
me nor the hand of the wicked cast me out.
See how the evil-doers fall! Flung down, they shall
never arise.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Revelation 21:2, 22, 25

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming
down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. I saw no temple in the

city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and
the Lamb. During the day its gates will never be
shut, and there will be no night there.

The Lord shall be your light forever. (Is 60:19)

Canticle of Zechariah

*Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has
come to his people and set them free. He has
raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house
of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that
he would save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all who hate us. He promised to show
mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy
covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free
to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in
his sight all the days of our life. You, my child,
shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for
you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to
give his people knowledge of salvation by the
forgiveness of their sins. In the tender
compassion of our God the dawn from on high
shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell
in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide
our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

Washed in the baptismal waters, the blind see. On
this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we pray once more for
all who seek God through full initiation into the
Church at Easter, for those who accompany them
on their journey, and for the communities who will
receive them:

R/Open our eyes, O Lord, to the wonders of your
love.

That God may dispel darkness – and be the light
that shines in all hearts. **R/**

That God may lead all to Christ, – for he is the light
of the world. **R/**

That all may see God – for he is the source of light
and truth. **R/**

That we may see God's light shining on the face of
Christ, – and that he may dim all lesser lights. **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*O God, through the Samaritan woman, inspire us
also to leave behind the heart's old water jars, grown
too small to hold the living water, and drink deeply at*

the well of salvation, that we may run with eagerness to proclaim the Gospel to all we meet, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Reading 2 Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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